

## Claims

- [c1] 1. A windshield washer system for an automotive vehicle, comprising:  
a reservoir for holding windshield washer fluid;  
an applicator system for furnishing washer fluid from the reservoir to an exterior surface of a vehicle; and  
a heat transfer system for recovering heat from a braking system of the vehicle and for conveying the recovered heat to the washer fluid contained within the reservoir.
- [c2] 2. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said applicator system furnishes washer fluid to a windshield.
- [c3] 3. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said windshield washer fluid is water based.
- [c4] 4. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said windshield washer fluid is neat water.
- [c5] 5. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said braking system comprises a friction braking system.
- [c6] 6. A windshield washer system according to Claim 5, wherein said friction braking system comprises a brake caliper adapted to engage a brake rotor, with said heat transfer system circulating a fluid through the caliper to recover heat from the caliper and to transfer the recovered heat to the windshield washer fluid reservoir.
- [c7] 7. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said braking system comprises a regenerative braking system of an electrodrive vehicle.
- [c8] 8. A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, wherein said braking system comprises a regenerative braking system of an electrodrive vehicle having at least one traction motor, with said heat transfer system circulating a fluid through the traction motor to recover heat from the traction motor and to transfer the recovered heat to the windshield washer fluid reservoir.

- [c9] 9.A windshield washer system according to Claim 1, further comprising a heat exchanger for transferring heat from engine coolant to washer fluid within said reservoir.
- [c10] 10.A windshield system for a motor vehicle, comprising:  
a heated windshield;  
a reservoir for holding windshield washer fluid;  
an applicator system for furnishing washer fluid from the reservoir to an exterior surface of the windshield; and  
a heat transfer system for recovering heat from a braking system of the vehicle and for conveying the recovered heat to fluid contained within the reservoir.
- [c11] 11.A windshield system according to Claim 10, further comprising a heat exchanger for transferring heat from engine coolant to washer fluid within said reservoir.
- [c12] 12.A method for providing heated washer fluid to the vision unit of an automotive vehicle, comprising the steps of:  
maintaining a supply of washer fluid within a reservoir;  
recovering heat from a braking system of the vehicle and conveying the recovered heat to the washer fluid within the reservoir;  
furnishing heated fluid from the reservoir to the windshield.
- [c13] 13. method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of heating the fluid within the reservoir with a heat exchanger having engine coolant circulating therethrough.